

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Connecting People, Creating Understanding



Each year, more than **5,000 International Visitors** come to the United States. Since 1940, nearly **200,000 International Visitors** have engaged with Americans through the IVLP. At any given point during the year, approximately **250 International Visitors** are in the United States. More than **50 current** and **275 former** Chiefs of State or Heads of Government are IVLP alumni.

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)

is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program. Through short-term visits to the United States, current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields experience the United States first-hand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts. Professional meetings reflect the participants' professional interests and support the foreign policy goals of the United States.

Who administers the IVLP?

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds and administers the IVLP in cooperation with National Program Agencies (NPAs), a group of private, not-for-profit organizations based in Washington, D.C. In addition, IVLP relies on the commitment and skills of more than 90 volunteer-based community organizations in 44 states that are members of the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV).

What do International Visitors do in the U.S.?

Participants typically visit four U.S. communities over three weeks, although projects vary by theme and Embassy requests. As they travel, International Visitors participate in:

- Meetings with U.S. public and private sector organizations related to the project theme.
- Social/cultural activities, including home hospitality meals with American families.
- Exploration of American society, history, and culture, led by English language officers or foreign language interpreters.

Who comes on an IVLP project?

There is no application for the IVLP. Participants are nominated by the staff at U.S. Embassies around the world.

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Projects cover a broad array of themes, some of which include:

- Civic education
- Combating trafficking in persons
- Democracy
- Diversity
- Economic issues
- Education
- Energy security
- English language instruction
- Entrepreneurism
- Environmental protection
- Food security and safety
- International health
- Journalism
- National security and counter-terrorism
- U.S. foreign policy
- Volunteerism
- Women's leadership
- Youth leadership

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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